



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TRAFFIC FATALITIES DOWN

Traffic fatalities are down substantially thus far in 2006, when compared to the same period last year. As of July 10, 2006, 50 people have been killed on North Dakota roads, compared to 64 deaths at the same time in 2005. "I would like to thank the motoring public for doing their part in reducing the fatality numbers," said Superintendent Bryan Klipfel. "It was encouraging that North Dakota did not record a single traffic fatality during the July 4th holiday period in 2006," Klipfel said. Three people were killed during the 2005 4th of July holiday period.

The summer season brings increased numbers of motorists on the highways and holding fatality numbers down in the summer months is critical. In 2005, 39 people were killed in the months of June and July. Thus far, 8 people have died during June and July of 2006. Although the figures thus far in 2006 are encouraging, each traffic fatality is a tragedy. Forty-two percent of the traffic fatalities in 2006 have been alcohol related and nearly 63% of victims were not wearing safety restraints.

"I would encourage all motorists and law enforcement in the state to keep traffic safety in their daily plans, in an effort to further reduce fatality numbers," said Klipfel.

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